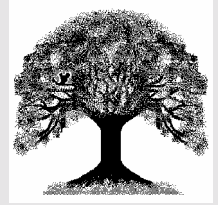


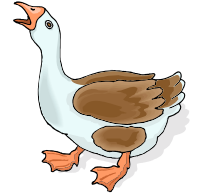


CITY OF SUNNYVALE PARKS DIVISION

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN



GEESE AT SUNNYVALE GOLF COURSE



The City of Sunnyvale Golf Division manages several ornamental ponds at Sunnyvale Golf Course which attract various waterfowl, including geese, at certain times of the year.

On the one hand, Canadian Geese are a valuable natural resource that provides recreation and enjoyment to bird watchers and the public. The sight of the distinctive V-formation of a flock always brings a special thrill. In recent years, flocks of local-nesting or “resident” geese have become year-round inhabitants of our golf course where they can cause significant problems.

While most golfers may find a few geese acceptable, problems develop as local flocks grow. At times their droppings become excessive (an adult goose produces a pound of droppings per day). Problems include over-grazed turf areas, accumulations of droppings and feathers on putting greens and walkways, nutrient loading of ponds, public health concerns and aggressive behavior by nesting birds.

More significantly, because of the nearby NASA air field at Moffett Field, flocks of geese can also present a significant danger to aircraft using the landing strips there. Officials at Moffett Field are required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to make every effort possible to keep geese from gathering in areas within 10,000 feet of the airfield to provide safe conditions for aircraft using the air field. Because Sunnyvale Golf Course is within this FAA established perimeter, it may be necessary at times for NASA to employ wildlife biologists from the USDA to make efforts to discourage the geese from taking up residence at the course.

The accepted and most effective solution is to discourage the geese from settling at a particular site. If they are not quickly dispersed, they will be more tolerant of disturbances and more difficult to disperse. To accomplish this requires a persistent application of a combination of methods. Some of the methods that the biologist would use, on occasion, include: discourage feeding of geese by the public, visual scaring devices, noisemakers or chasing or “hazing” by trained dogs that do not cause harm. When these steps are not effective, options the USDA would consider include capture and relocating the geese or their elimination from these safety zones. A permit issued by the U S Fish and Game is required to implement these actions and a special permit to work on City property must be issued by the City.

If you have any questions regarding geese management activities, please call the Golf Division Office at (408) 730-7625. Thank you for helping us to keep Sunnyvale Golf Course safe, attractive and usable.